

Ofcom children’s online experiences project

Consent Forms

Thank you for agreeing to take part in our research project about Children’s online experiences for Ofcom. This document is to obtain your and your child’s consent for taking part in the research and should be read alongside the project information sheet which you have been provided.

Throughout your involvement in the project you and your child will be asked to take part in one face-to-face interview and one online/video interview. Your child will also be asked to share some information about their media routines via online tasks that include a media diary, social media tracking and sharing of screenshots and screen record clips.

By ticking the boxes on this consent form, you agree to take part in this project and are happy for us to include your and your child’s anonymised data in the research.

Please note that each box needs to be consented to individually by ticking next to the statement. There is a section for you, as the parent, to consent to followed by three sections for your child to consent to.

Part I: Overarching parental consent

	You understand who the research is for, what it is about, how the findings will be used and shared, having read the project information sheet.
	You have been given the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the research process, its goals and the usage of the information you give us, and these have been satisfactorily answered.
	You understand that the interviews and wider research can be stopped at any time.
	You understand that that you and your child are not expected to give out any information that you feel uncomfortable with.
	You understand that you can withdraw your consent at any time and can do so by contacting on 020 7735 8040. In this instance, you can ask for Ofcom and Revealing Reality to delete any personal information they hold about you.
	You have been made aware that Revealing Reality will securely store your personal information for the duration of the contract with Ofcom. However, the data will not be stored for longer than is required to enable Revealing Reality to deliver the research to Ofcom and will be deleted within 6 months of the project coming to an end.
	You have been made aware that Revealing Reality acts on the instructions of Ofcom and that upon request by Ofcom the material we have collected will be deleted from our systems.
	Your consent to participate allows Revealing Reality to collect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal data relating to your and your child’s experiences and life history, this may include sensitive information; for example, information about ethnicity, religion, or disabilities • Written notes • Audio-visual recordings from interviews (e.g. film output from the interviews) <p>Data shared by your child in the tracking activities (e.g. photos, selfie-film, diary worksheets, brief 10-15 minute screen record clips and social media tracking).</p>

	You understand that screen capture images from your child's devices will be collected as part of the interview.
	You understand that the data Revealing Reality gathers from you and your child could be used to illustrate the research findings for Ofcom in presentations (which may be conducted virtually or face-to-face and in presented or written format e.g. a slide pack and report).
	You understand that the data gathered from you and your child will be anonymised – pseudonyms will be used, and account names, personal information and any other contact information will be removed or obscured from screen record and video footage, and any photos or screen captures.
	You understand that anonymised research findings and video clips, sourced from or relating to your child, could be used by Ofcom in its internal and external presentations (which may be conducted virtually or face-to-face) and in written reports or publications to be published on Ofcom's website. (Please note, while Ofcom may include the video clips within relevant presentations, these clips will not be published).
	You have read and understand the risk that video or screen record clips showing you and your child (but not your real names) used in Ofcom presentations may end up in the public domain, but this will only occur if there is an error or breach in security which is rare.
	You understand that for the purposes of the information we collect as part of this research, Revealing Reality is the data processor and Ofcom is the data controller. This means that Ofcom determines the purposes, and the means, by which personal data is processed and that Revealing Reality processes personal data only on behalf of the controller.
	You understand the nature of the personal information that will be collected as part of this research and you agree to its use by Ofcom for the purposes explained in the project information sheet.
	You give your consent for Ofcom to share the information with third parties as identified in the information sheet.
	You give your consent to take part in this research, the purpose of which has been fully explained to you.

PARTICIPANT:

PARENTS NAME PRINTED:

DATE:

Part 2: Parental consent for diary tasks & screen record

Between the two interviews, we will ask your child to complete some diary tasks to help us understand their media habits more fully.

As part of this we'd like your child to gather some short (10-15 minute) screen record clips to illustrate their media activities, such as the use of social media, video-sharing platforms, gaming or search services. Screen record lets us see the sort of things your child does when on their phone or tablet.

We'll provide separate instructions, but we'll ask your child only to share things that they choose, and that they're comfortable with.

If we share this with Ofcom, all the personal data (whether of the participant or their friends) on social media will be anonymised. We will also remove any contact information or account names before we share it with Ofcom.

Parent consent for screen record:

PARTICIPANT:
PARENT NAME PRINTED:
DATE:

Part 3: Parental consent for social media tracking

What does this mean?

Researchers will follow your child on selected (specified by the child) social media accounts for up to **2 weeks** as part of the diary phase between the initial and follow-up interview, in order to build on what they have learnt about what your child likes to do on social media.

- Researchers will only follow an account they have been given permission to by you and your child.
- Researchers will follow from their own generic 'researcher account' (not a personal one) for 1-2 weeks after the interview. After this they will stop following your child and won't be able to see anything on their account anymore. Researchers will screen record or screenshot them unfollowing the profile(s).
- During the time researchers follow or friend your child they will be able to see what they post and how their posts are reacted to by other people.
- Researchers **will not** interact with your child at any time on the social media account (i.e. commenting or liking) they are following.
- Researchers will reflect and conduct analysis about what they see your child posting and may take screenshots of activity (which will be anonymised) to add to their information and understanding about what your child is doing online.
- The data gathered may be used to illustrate the research findings for Ofcom in presentations and written reports as detailed in the information sheet provided.

Parental consent for social media tracking:

PARTICIPANT:
PARENT NAME PRINTED:
DATE:

Child Consent

Hello!

Our researchers would like to talk with you about your experiences being online. Our researchers are carrying out research for an organisation called the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom is the public body that oversees industries like TV, radio, the airwaves and telephone services. The UK government has also appointed Ofcom as the regulator for online harms in the UK and is preparing for its new role to make online services safer, for both children and adults.

Research is where we talk to lots of different people of all kinds of ages to find out what they like to do and what they think about different things. With this research, Ofcom wants to understand what young people do online and the different types of experiences they have.

So, we want to find out more about the experiences you've had online and how you felt about it. This could include experiences you've had on your phone, social media, the TV, your tablet or during gaming.

Who are we?

We work for a company in London who do research to find out more about how the world works and what people think about different things. We're called Revealing Reality.

The people you might meet are Saoirse, Rowan, Dom, Johanna and Ruby - they are our researchers. They do lots of projects talking to young people about different things.

What are we doing?

We would like to come and spend some time with you and our family at your home where we would first have a face to face interview with you, as well as a video call, to talk with you about your life and what you like to do online - what you like to watch, what you like to play, and what you think about different technologies and social media. But also to understand what types of experiences you've had online. We'll be recording both chats with you. We will take some written notes too. If you feel uncomfortable during the recordings, you can ask us to stop the recording at any time.

In the interviews, we'll be asking you different questions, but if there's anything you want to ask us when we chat, we'll be happy to answer any questions you have for us! If there are any questions you don't want to answer when we're talking, that's okay. No one will be annoyed or upset if you decide you don't want to answer.

If you tell us something that makes the researcher worry that you might be at serious risk we might have to tell somebody else to make sure you are protected. If this happens we'll discuss it with you and this might include telling your parents, or telling someone who protects children for their job (this is called a 'local authority'). You can find more information about this in the information sheet.

What will we be asking you to do?

As well as chatting to you in the interviews, there are a couple of things we'd like you to help us with to understand your media habits even more fully.

1. Diary tasks and screen records

Between the two interviews, we will ask you to complete some diary tasks. As part of this, we'd like you to share some screen record clips to show what you get up to on your phone or your tablet and laptop.

We'll provide you with some separate instructions, but we'd only like you to share things that you want to and that you're comfortable with.

If we share this with Ofcom we will not use any pictures from your social media that show your friends or any personal information that they post about themselves. We will also remove or obscure any contact information or account names before we share it with Ofcom.

2. Following you on social media

As we're going to talk to you about what you like to watch and do on social media and other technology, we'd like to ask if you would let a researcher follow any of your accounts for up to 2 weeks after the first interview. Here are some facts about what following you on social media means:

- Researchers don't have to follow you on ALL of your accounts - you can pick the ones you are most happy for us to follow/friend you on (you can put these at the bottom of this consent form).
- Researchers will follow this account from their 'researcher account' (not a personal account) for 2 weeks after the interview. After this they will stop following you and won't be able to see anything on your account anymore.
- During the time researchers follow or friend you they will be able to see what you post and how your posts are reacted to by other people.
- Researchers will not interact at any time with you or your friends on the social media account (i.e. commenting or liking) while they are following you.
- We may use some observations about what we see you posting to add to our information about what you like to do on social media.
- Some of this will be shared with Ofcom. The information we give to Ofcom will be published in a report for people to read, but it won't include your real name (we'll give you a fake one!) or where you live or anything that might identify you.
- We will not use any pictures from your social media that show your friends or any personal information that they post about themselves.
- We will remove any contact information or account names before we share it with Ofcom.

What happens after the research?

We will report back to Ofcom about the experiences you've had online and the impact they may have had on you. We may share with Ofcom photos and screen record clips you send to us, a note of some of the things you told us, and video clips from our interviews with you (you will be shown in those video clips).

In all cases, we will remove your name before sharing and give you a fake name (you're welcome to choose it if you like!). In the diary tasks (including screen record and social media tracking) we also wouldn't include any account or contact information for you and your friends, or any personal information of your friends on social media.

The information you share with us during this research will be safe and handled with care. After collecting everything (your answers, video footage, screen record, our reflections from social media tracking, additional pictures, and any screen grabs you consent to give us) this material may be used to prepare a written report and presentation for Ofcom. However, we will remove your personal information from this material. We and Ofcom will use your information only for the things you have allowed us to use it for.

Ofcom won't put the video clips or images on their website or any other site. Ofcom will use the video clips when explaining the research to other people who are thinking about how children use technology, for example to people who work at universities or for the government.

The video clips might include your face and voice but won't include your real name or where you live. The video clips might also include screenshots from your social media activities and screen recordings (if you agree to this).

If you have any questions, you or your parents can talk to us about it. We'll give them our phone number and email address when we recruit you and your parents to take part in the project. And, if at any time after the interview you decide you want us to delete the recordings and information we have about you from our chat, please let us know and we will do that.

If you feel happy to take part in the research, please tick the boxes along the left and write your name at the bottom:

	I am happy to take part in the research
	I am happy to take part in the screen record diary tasks
	I am happy to take part in the social media following tasks. The social media I am happy to be followed on are:

Your name: _____

Thank you for all your help!